

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

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Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

February 1999

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

The February meeting of the Hancock County Historical Society will be held at noon on Thursday, February 18, 1999 at the Kate Lobrano House, Bay St. Louis.

Our guest speaker will be Tim Foley of Mississippi Power Company who will present a talk and slide show titled "Flags of America."

Call 467-4090 for luncheon reservations at \$6.00. Since our maximum seating capacity is 60, it is imperative that you call early to assure your reservation and to help us plan seating.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

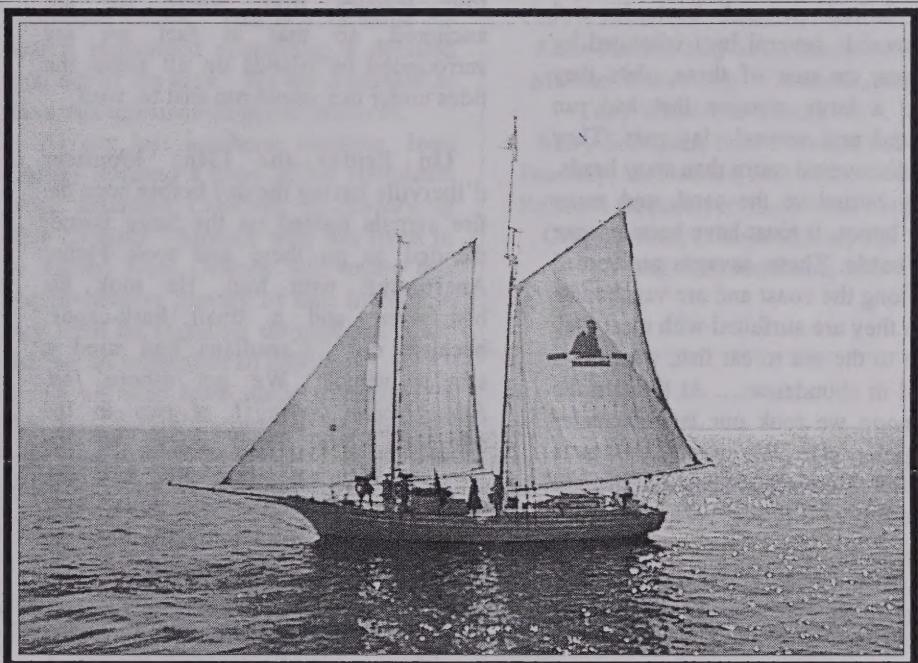
Pierre and Jean Baptiste Le Moyne arrived from France three hundred years ago and again last Wednesday. The re-enactment held at Ship Island on February 10 was beautiful. The fog cleared before the Le Moyne brothers debarked from the Glen Swetman and planted the Fleur-de-lis on the north-west point of the island. Our Tercentenary has begun and we look good.

Activities at Lobrano House are increased as preparations accelerate toward the anniversary of the exploration and naming of the Bay of Saint Louis.

Richard and Marlene Johnson cleaned the Lobrano House carpets for us this week as a gift from the Coffee Club. They did an absolutely professional job and we are very appreciative of this gift.

Another gift we received this month was an 1854 map of the state of Mississippi that was donated by Princess Fahey and Iva May McDonald. It is beautifully

See President on page 3



The Glen L. Swetman at the re-enactment
February 10, 1999

The Voyage of Le Marin

Part two of a 1999 Series

*In observance of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Bay Saint Louis, **The Historian** will retrace the route of Le Marin, the ship of Sieur Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville as it led five vessels under the French flag to our coast in 1699.*

Each month a selection from Le Marin's ship's log is being reprinted in English translation. In our last issue we found Le Marin in Mobile Bay at the end of January. Now we join Le Marin in February as the squadron of ships explores the Mississippi Sound.

On Sunday the 1st of February, around ten in the morning, our felucca,

having returned from her trip of exploration, reported having been unable to find water, according to the report, made to Monsieur de Lesquelet. The latter, having once more boarded his ship, stated that he had five brasses of water, which caused Monsieur d'Iberville to go there himself, together with Monsieur de Sauvolle. These two traversiers have been forced to anchor because of the currents and the winds from the southwest that were causing them to drift landward. We got under sails, using our topsails to pull away as we were anchored much too near a reef connected with the mainland and

breaking out all around here...winds, lightning, heavy clouds to the south.

On Wednesday the 4th ...there is a great lake, depth five brasses, with a river discharging into it having both ebb and flow, and whose tides are northwest and southeast. This river has such a swift current that its waters are all muddy, pines sweeping down its midst, would make masts of prodigious heights and diameters. Our men killed several bustards and discovered several huts inhabited by savages; on one of these islets they found a large pirogue that had run aground and several clay pots. They also discovered more than sixty heads, partly buried in the sand, and many other bones, it must have been a scene of a battle. These savages are spread out along the coast and are vagabonds; when they are surfeited with meat they come to the sea to eat fish, where it is found in abundance.... At three in the afternoon we took our latitude under the polar star...We were then in a position three leagues south of the end of the Bay of Mobile.

On Tuesday, the 10th, around seven in the morning the winds being to the east, and blowing gently, we sailed away to find anchorage to the north of this islet, around which Monsieur the Chevalier de Surgeres had been making soundings for several days before. We made northwest to quarter north in search of the large traversier, that had anchored in the pass; then afterwards we navigated towards the western tip of the islet, which we ranged to within shot of a boucanier. We used our chaloupes ahead to pull us forward, as much because of the calm weather as because of the tides which were taking us west....Toward six in the evening, we anchored in 22 feet of water, found the bottom to be of soft mud and moored across southeast to northwest....In this anchorage we are sheltered from winds ranging from east-northeast to southwest by the first islet and from west winds by another

islet, distant from the first about two leagues. The two islets lie in a position east and west, leaning a bit to northwest and are in latitude 30 degrees, we are anchored between the two, another being farther west and in longitude 28 degrees 3 minutes, on the north side, one is under the shelter of a large island [*ed.: Ship Island*], which would seem to be part of the mainland, as we cannot see its end, and which may be in latitude 30 degrees 22 minutes, being to the north of the islet, four leagues from where we are anchored, so that in fact we are surrounded by islands on all sides; the tides under this island run east to west.

On Friday the 13th, Monsieur d'Iberville having the day before seen the fire signals lighted on the large island, decided to go there and took Father Anastasius with him. He took his biscayenne and a small bark-canoe, because our Canadians had used a similar vehicle. We got ashore [*ed. Biloxi-Ocean Springs*] at two in the afternoon. We found tracks of the savages, they had apparently left only that very morning. We built some shelters; the dry grasses having been set afire the savages saw our smoke.

On Saturday the 14th, after breakfast, we walked along the coast. Monsieur d'Iberville and his savage soon picked up the tracks of two savages who had come forward to reconnoitre. Monsieur d'Iberville came back to our fire and placed around two hatchets, four knives, some glass beads, some vermillion, and two pipes full of tobacco, as presents to show we meant peace. Later Monsieur d'Iberville, his savage and Father Anastasius, having walked along for a distance of about half a league caught sight of three savages. They ran after them, being unable to catch up with them and seeing them embark in their canoes, he waited for his own canoe....he finally got aboard and forced them to put to shore and to abandon what they had with them they left behind an ailing old man to whom he gave some presents and to whom he made to understand that we were not here to make war, but to make peace. He

understood very well what we told him and was much pleased by it. Finally they told him that they were going back to seek their shelters, some quarter league from there. That same evening we again came down to see him. He made us understand, through signs, that he wanted us to help him and make a fire. We did both with pleasure. One of his legs was rotting away.

Some of our men who had gone hunting, had surprised an old woman who had tried to hide herself; they brought her to the old man, at the spot where we were. She thought her last day had come. We gave her some presents. She was a witness to our kindness to the old man, who promised us that as soon as his people returned he would have them pound up some Indian wheat (corn), that we might have a feast. We left them together and came back to our shelters. The old woman went to her people that same evening and gave them a complete account of what had just passed.

On Sunday the 15th, in the morning, Monsieur d'Iberville and Father Anastasius went again to see the old man; unfortunately the grasses near him had caught fire and he had all he could do pulling away. We put the fire out, and laid him on a bearskin. The poor wretch died before our very eyes half an hour later. We heard the other savages coming down chanting. We waited for them a while, but they became seized with fear; they dared not come nearer and we had to return to our shelters. Towards ten o'clock they met up with our hunters who gave them such reassurances that they were able to bring them down chanting and carrying in their hands some sort of sticks shaped in the form of pipes; we embraced them, rubbing bellies together. We gave them smoking tobacco and all sorts of presents.

Later Monsieur d'Iberville sent to one of the shelters to fetch the caldron and we all ate together.

At the same time two old women kept pounding down some Indian wheat to offer it to us for a feast later, which they did. They called us their allies, we learned a few words of their language and finally retired for the night.

On Monday the 16th, the chaloupe took a run along the coast. Monsieur d'Iberville, his brother, Father Anastasius and several other of us went to take a look at the huts our men had seen the day before....We proposed to them that if some of their numbers would come with us, in the chaloupe we had there, we would leave three of our men with them as hostages, they accepted our proposition. Monsieur d'Iberville left his brother named Monsieur de Bienville, a marine guard....They remained with us one night, the other savages being within range of pistol-shot from the ships. The chief entoned the chant of peace.

On Wednesday the 25th, Monsieur de Surgeres, Monsieur de Lesquelet and Monsieur de Sauvolle returned at four in the afternoon. Monsieur d'Iberville having remained behind to wait for the savages. The savages finally arrived, the two feluccas were made ready that an early start might be made the next morning to go and explore the river of the Pascagoulas. Taking along provisions enough to last for ten or twelve days, Messieurs de le Villantrey, des Jourdis, ensigns, and two pilots, embarked in the two feluccas to go and explore the river aforesaid, which is situated to the east of our ships, ten leagues from the island where we anchored.

On Saturday the 28th....We spied a pass between two islets in which we entered around four in the afternoon, and where we settled. Around five a storm arose from the northwest...We spread our sails and pavilions to catch the rain water, having but little drinking water, being unable to find any on the island, and not knowing where our course would take us to.

From *A Chapter From Memoirs & Documents* by Pierre Margry. Translated by Henri de ville Du Sinclair.

President from page 1

Burton Kemp, III donated a large 5-drawer map table to the society. We have needed one of these badly because we have many maps and charts that have been totally inaccessible in the past. Bill Flores installed it into our existing cabinet work. We appreciate both these gifts.

Dr. Marco Giardino donated a copy of *Archaeological Survey of the Logtown Tract, Hancock County, Mississippi* which he, Callie Hall and Alvin Genin had prepared for the NASA/Stennis Environmental Office. This is a valuable research instrument containing a detailed analysis of the area. We are fortunate to have this information in our archives.

At our last luncheon meeting, Joan Garvey donated a copy of her delightful book *Beautiful Crescent, A History of New Orleans*. Anyone who has lived in or visited New Orleans will enjoy this comprehensive history of that incredible city from its founding through the years that we all remember so fondly.

To all who have made donations in the past, please know that we treasure each and every one and will try to use them to the best of our ability.

Charles H. Gray

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marlene Johnson, our membership chairman, reports that payment of dues this year has been the best ever. HOWEVER, if you happen to be one of the few who have not yet mailed in their \$12, please do so as soon as it is convenient. It will help us greatly to plan our budget for the year.

Please remember that the symposium we mentioned last month will occur before our next *newsletter*. It is sponsored by the Mississippi Historical Society and is called *Colonial Louisiana, A Tricentennial Symposium*. It will held at the Grand Casino Bayview Hotel in Biloxi from March 3 'til March 6. Admission is free but luncheon or banquet tickets must be purchased if you plan to attend those functions. We hope to see you there.

To request a full symposium program, call Mississippi Historical Society at 601/359-6850.

NEW MEMBERS

Rosanne Sneddon, Diamondhead, MS
 Nancy Plaut, Bay Saint Louis, MS
 Elizabeth Lynch, Pearlington, MS
 E. G. Smith, Diamondhead, MS
 Sylvia Smith, Diamondhead, MS
 Jimmy Robert Morgan, Bay Saint Louis
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 Tony Wilson, Winona, TX
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 Iva May, McDonald, Bay Saint Louis
 Rebecca Beckmeyer, Bay Saint Louis
 Gerald Ward, Diamondhead, MS
 Kae Ward, Diamondhead, MS

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MONDAY	10 a.m.
through	to
FRIDAY	3 p.m.

THE

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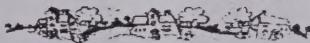
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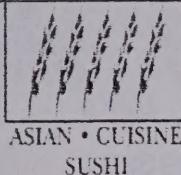


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